

Patron: Penny Wake

Chairman: Martin Sutcliffe



Issue Eighteen

Summer 2012

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE SPECIAL

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN



This year has been an incredibly busy one for Rutland Sailability, mostly because of our involvement with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This edition of *Gone Sailing* commemorates much that was done in supporting this milestone.

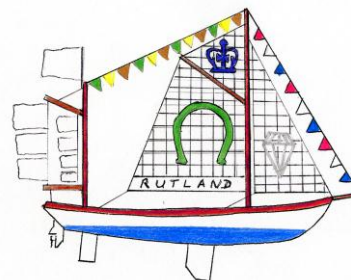
While many boats only had to string a few flags on their superstructure, we completely redesigned the whole rig and were the only boat in the moving Pageant to have sails hoisted. The work to do all of this really was a true county wide effort, from the local primary schools up to senior citizens plus very considerable financial support from many Rutland and surrounding organisations. May I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all who helped. Without your help it would not have been possible. I only wish that the TV cameras had managed to capture it. After that, the boat in all its special rig was invited to the Picnic in the Park at Burghley Park and was greatly admired by all. The boat was the centre piece at a Friends of Rutland Sailability Reception in late June and the final big event was to join the escort supporting the Olympic torch as it crossed Rutland Water.

Now that things have calmed down, it is back to business as usual at Rutland Water. Now that the water level is as high as I have ever seen it I look forward to having a few enjoyable days sailing with members, some of whom I have not seen for a while. Once again many thanks to you all for your continued support which has made all of this possible.

Martin Sutcliffe - Chairman

PREPARATIONS

The only boat we had which would be suitable was "Wally Goldsmith", a Drascombe Longboat presented to us by The Rotary Club of Oundle.



To meet the Pageant regulations the boat could not be sailed but had to be powered. Modifications for fitting an outboard engine

were made and designs made to replace the existing brown sails with specially made mesh sails with embroidered logos representing Rutland.

The crew was: - *Skipper*: Geoff Willerton; *Navigator*: Martin Sutcliffe; *Crew*: John Deane, Craig Nairn, Ian McNair and Bill Ridlington. All are Rutland Sailability members.

The boat was officially launched on Rutland Water by the High Sheriff, Bart Hellyer on 30th May.



Martin Sutcliffe sprays the bubbly with Bart Hellyer supporting and Skipper, Geoff Willerton in the boat.

THE EVENT

There were 1,000 boats in the Pageant, divided into Squadrons. The Rutland boat was in the Recreational Motorboat Squadron, towards the back of the fleet. Along with around 150 other boats, the Rutland boat went through West India Lock at around 09.00 and started out for the mustering point, 15 miles upstream just below Hammersmith Bridge. It was already raining!



In the lock with some large Dutch Barges. Some rather scary company.



Passing the Houses of Parliament on the way to Hammersmith.



One of the Royal Barges.

The Rutland boat reached its start point with the rest of the Recreational Motorboat Squadron at 11.45.

The pageant was headed by unsung heroes in the whole event – the rowing boats. 100 of them passed the Rutland boat on their way to the start.



Inevitably, some of the timing went astray and before the Squadron was released, the one following, the narrow boats, started to arrive.



They had to stop but this was not easy as there were 100 of them!

The Rutland Squadron was released at around 14.45 and their formal part in the Pageant had begun.





There were 45 minutes of boats in front of them and yet the support from the crowd was as enthusiastic and noisy as for the head of the Pageant.

And then just before Tower Bridge even more rain! After 8 hours in an open boat, in the wind and rain, this was not a welcome development. However, The Royal Barge was now in sight. Chairman/Navigator Martin dipped the local flags.



Three Cheers for Her Majesty the Queen



All was not over. Now came two and half hours to get back through the Lock at West India Docks.



Note the web cam mounted on the mast. The boat was sending images every 5 seconds to the Rutland Sailability web site.

And then, finally:



A cup of hot sweet tea works wonders after such a day!

Craig, Geoff and Ian reflect on what they have just achieved.

Martin reports Mission Accomplished!



Editor's note: The boat and more importantly, the crew, were on the river in very demanding conditions for a total of ten and half hours. This was a tremendous feat of endurance which deserves respect from all in Rutland, who they were representing in the Pageant.

Three of the crew needed some medical attention at the end of the event but I am pleased to report that the medical teams on standby did an excellent job for all of them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to many people who helped make this happen:

Martin Sutcliffe, Chairman of Rutland Sailability, who has lived with this project every day since its inception in 2011. Without his energy, this would not have happened.

Geoff Willerton who masterminded and carried out most of the conversion of our trusty Longboat into a craft suitable not only for the River Thames, but also for Her Majesty.

Dorothy Sharman who created and sewed all the special logos for the netting sails.

Catmose College (Oakham) team who have painstakingly filmed the pre event preparations and have produced a DVD record of the project.

Adi Coulam for invaluable assistance and advice in loaning and fitting the outboard engine necessary to achieve the minimum boat speed during the Pageant.

Local Primary Schools who produced the locally themed bunting which dressed the boat overall during the event.

The Crew, theirs was an outstanding achievement, well done.

And of course: The Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, **Dr Laurence Howard**, the High Sheriff, **Bart Hellyer** and his immediate predecessor, **Peter Lawson** for honouring Rutland Sailability with the responsibility of representing the County, but also finding funds and resources to ensure our participation was at no cost to our charity.

THE PICNIC IN THE PARK

The Rutland Sailability Diamond Jubilee Pageant longboat, Wally Goldsmith, was at Burghley Park, Stamford, on 13 June, when HM Queen visited The Picnic in the Park, where she was greeted by over 10,000 people, as part of her National Jubilee Tour of Britain.' Chairman, Martin Sutcliffe was presented to Her Majesty.



Some of the children who made the bunting for the boat visited the stand.

JUBILEE REFLECTIONS

On 27th June the Friends of Rutland Sailability held their Annual Reception at Barnsdale Lodge. This year the theme was a Celebration of Rutland Sailability's involvement in the Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames.



Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Laurence Howard, introduced John Deane - a member of the Pageant boat's crew - who gave an entertaining and informative presentation covering the months of preparation of the boat and the way of the Pageant unfolded for the crew.



the way of the Pageant unfolded for the crew.



Pupils from Catmose College, Oakham, Dan Purse, Lewis Clark and Sam Cliff, introduced an excellent DVD they had made of the entire project and presented a copy to Laurence Howard. A number of guests were present representing the various organisations and individuals who had helped to make the whole event possible.

Our web site: www.rutland-sailability.org has a full write up and lots more photographs of our part in the Pageant. It also has a link to the Catmose College DVD.

Copies of the DVD are available, price £2.50.

If you would like a copy or have any other questions or comments please contact the Editor.

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